

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1-27 and 37-52 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 28-36 are rejected. Claims 28-36 have been cancelled. New Claims 53-71 have been added.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Brief Overview of Invention

Claims have been redrafted to clarify that the method of the invention is for retrieving resources.

As explained in the specification, the method of the present invention aims at organizing information without being bound by the rigid directory structure and file manipulations of most operating systems.

Rather, when according to the present invention the user wants to make sure that a resource ("first resource" in claim 53) is retrieved by him in the future, he manually associates this resource with another resource (the "second resource" in claim 53) which has the property of being linked to "other resources" by a relevance relationship (such as a "spot" in the description, but not limited thereto). Information about such association is stored ("stored information" in claim 53).

For instance, a user having created a presentation document on a given topic (e.g. classical guitar) can manually associate his document to a popular web page (the second resource) relating to classical guitar.

After this "manual" association has been made, the user can retrieve his document either by directly accessing the second resource (step d) in claim 53), or by searching any web page that relates to classical guitar and has a good relevance relationship with the above-mentioned popular web page (step e) in claim 53). When the browser displays this page (typically just like a normal browser does), it also displays an indicator of the existence of the presentation document (first resource) of the user. In this manner, the user has retrieved his document just by accessing a given page he/she knows well or alternatively making a simple topic-based search of a web page relevant thereto.

It should be noted here that the new claim language clearly specifies that the indicator is "also displayed". Such display is not intended to replace the resource currently accessed to, but comes in addition thereto.

Reference can also be made e.g. to pages 47 and 48 of the specification ("second scenario of use" and "third scenario of use").

Response to Claim Rejections

In response to the rejection of Claims 28-36 under 35 USC 102, 35 USC 103 (as to claims 34 and 35), Applicant responds as follows.

Claims 28-36 have been cancelled and replaced by Claims 53-69. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record is requested in view of such amendment and the following discussion.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 28-33 and 36 under 35 USC 102(e), Claim 53 is presented to replace Claim 28. Although Claim 53 is similar to Claim 28, it includes additional limitations, new Claim 53 is directed to subject matter which differs greatly from existing Claim 28. In particular, although element (b) of Claim 53 is arguably similar to element (b) of Claim 28 and element (c) of Claim 53 is arguably similar to element (a) of Claim 28, in Claim 28, there does not appear to be any such correlation between elements (a), (d) and (e) of Claim 53. For example, the entirety of element (e) of Claim 53 does not appear to be disclosed or suggested by Emens et al. That is, while Emens et al. teaches methods for associating a search result that was selected by users during previous search sessions, it does not appear to address the problem solved by the invention as described above.

Since all of the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from Claim 53, Applicant submits that such claims are also patentably distinct over the prior art.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.